T/SOR/43/1/18

Libertarian VOICE

ALTERNATIVE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER PRODUCED IN MUIRHOUSE ---- FREE

editorial

Firstly, we would like to explain who we are and why we are trying to produce this libertarian news-sheet. The idea to create the news-sheet was first put forward by some young kids from Muirhouse who were pissed off by the various political options available to them. The idea was taken up by an adult member of the community and so, together, we will try to produce a libertarian paper for Muirhouse, Pilton, Pennywell, Granton & Drylaw.

Our views are anarchist, but unfortunately this word over the years has been associated with chaos, destruction and apathy. Anarchism is the complete opposite of these and this is exactly one of the reasons why we are bringing this news-sheet out, while the other main reason is to discuss the anarchist attitude towards society and to get direct community involvement.

BARMY!

In the good old days, fooling the squaddies was very easy. Everyone in the Army was white and/or British, and everyone else could be grouped together under such collective terms as "huns","japs","wogs", etc. Even today, squaddies are encouraged to look on the Irish enemy as some sort of "white wogs" only recently emerged from the Ice Age,

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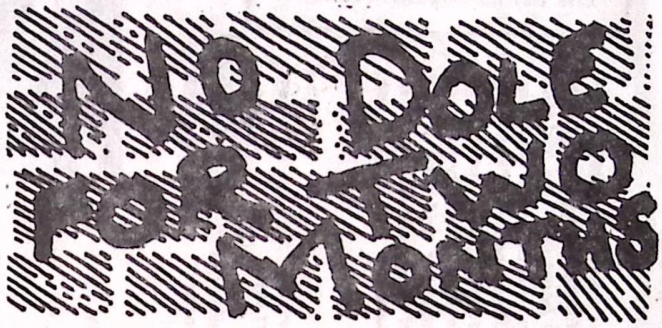

Since the Tories have got in power they've done nothing but make the working class people poorer. Their latest plan which is now in operation, is that when a school-leaver leaves school he or she is not entitled to any dole money until the new school season starts up again. So for the many school-leavers who leave school at the end of May, this means that he or she does not get any dole money for seven weeks or more. So since there's not much employment in this area what are the young people going to live on? Not only that, but what are the parents going to do, who have to keep their children fed, clothed and housed for this longer period, when their son or daughter is bringing neither wage nor dole money into the house.?

It's not just the Tories who do daft bureaucratic things like that but also the other lot as well when they're in power, so this goes to prove that all governments are corrupt and we can't go on taking this shit off them. We suggest that if an individual is today considered not to have the proper responsibility to look after himself, then how the hell can another individual have the power to look after thousands or millions of other people ?

Tristan da Cunha had no government, and no police.

No one was murdered and no one was robbed.

AFTER PILTON...?

Pilton is an area, which as we all know by now, that the Council has plans to demolish. They would like to see between 250 and 500 houses knocked down. This we feel will be the first step towards a plan of action which would set out to completely demolish one of Edinburgh's "problem areas". So what if they knock it down, what do you care? Probably the first reaction of most people will be to praise the demolition and be glad that Pilton will be gone once and for all.

But do you honestly think that the Council will stop there? If private housing were to be built on the Pilton site it is doubtful as to whether they would sell well because of the location. Therefore it would be all to easy to knock down Muirhouse and parts of Granton as well. The Council would have a much easier life if the housing problem were solved by private ownership. We are gradually observing the expansion of privately owned houses in West Edinburgh, and gradually observing the herding of the unemployed into ghettos where the authorities hope they will be able to forget about them.

The Council is apathetic towards the needs of the ordinary tenant. For instance, MARTELLO COURT was plagued by constant petty-vandalism. The Council sold it off to private interests who have put a big bloody wall round the place to prevent the vandals (bored products of this violent society) from causing any trouble to the residents who have bought flats in what must be like a fortress-prison for them. Few social facilities have ever been provided for tenants to meet and discuss problems and get things organised. If the Council had any common sense they would realise that when facilities are provided for people to use as they desire, a community spirit develops in which people who know one another as friends and allies are regulated by a sense of social responsibility, and don't throw bricks through one anothers' windows.

Housing schemes like Muirhouse and Pilton do produce vandalism and apathy - it's just an environmental health hazard of living there - but we had no say in the planning and design of the place we live in, and those who did have a say have never had to live in one of their own cartoons. So forget the telly which can't help you ignore the truth all the time, start working towards more and better action, remembering that all power corrupts (left or right) let's work now towards a libertarian decentralised society.

ANARCHISM (from the Gr. *an-*, and *archē*) contrary to authority, is the name given to a principle or theory of life and conduct under which society is conceived without government – harmony in such a society being obtained, not by submission to law, or by obedience to any authority, but by free agreements concluded between the various groups, territorial and professional, freely constituted for the sake of production and consumption, as also for the satisfaction of the infinite variety of needs and aspirations of a civilised being.

THE ENCYCLOPAEDIA BRITANNICA

"There is one thing far worse than robbing banks, and that is building them."

THE BALLAD OF BRENDA SPENCER
(Lyrics for an unwritten punk rock hit)

(On January 29, 1979, Brenda Spencer, age 16, opened fire on the elementary school across from her home. By the time she surrendered 6½ hours later, she had slain the principal and a custodian in addition to wounding 7 schoolchildren and a San Diego police officer. Telephoned by reporters during the siege, Brenda explained that her sniping "livens up the day," especially since she "didn't like Mondays." A neighbor said that Brenda didn't like school: "She kept saying she didn't like it, but she wouldn't tell me why." If you've gotta ask, you'll never know . . .)

Monday morning, just another day
Doing everything the teachers say
Brenda's tired of doing what she's told
Tired of being young and feeling old
Brenda Spencer hasn't lost her pride
She gets off on pedagogicide!

Chorus:
Hear what Brenda's got to say
"Sniping livens up my day.
I don't like Mondays anyway!"

Brenda's tired of following the rules
Tired of sucking up to evil fools
Little did the grown-ups realize
Brenda's gonna cut them down to size!
Rather than behave herself today
Brenda blew the principal away!

Chorus

Six long hours, half a day
Brenda held the pigs at bay
Wanna know the reason why?
Brenda'd rather kill than die

Chorus

All the experts say that Brenda's sick
They get paid to pull that dirty trick
Teachers, don't tell Brenda what to do
She knows how to deal with scum like you
Ah! the gladness, sadness, madness, fun
Growing from the barrel of her gun!

Chorus

Monday morning, just another day
Doing everything the teachers say
Brenda's tired of doing what she's told
Tired of being young and feeling old
Brenda Spencer hasn't lost her pride
She gets off on pedagogicide!

Life Before Death Is Possible.

Don't Let School Get In The Way Of Education

- 'I learned something at school today. I signed up for folk guitar, computer programming, shoemaking and gardening. I got spelling, history, arithmetic and latin.'
'So what did you learn?'
'I learned that what you sign up for and what you get are two different things.'

Leaders are for lead-heads.

THE Wildcat COLUMN

Now that we have a Tory government, we, the workers, are experiencing a rough time as the Tory Party actively promotes anti-working class policies. If the Labour Party thinks it will get our votes at the next election though, they must think we have very short memories. Who backed the employers against the Firemen, the lorry drivers, health workers, Council workers, and many thousands of others? Whose "social contract" kept our wages down? Who cut back public services contrary to their election promises? Answer - the last Labour government, of the Party who deserve to be re-named the Scab Party.

Voting is not democratic any more than choosing between Tweedledum and Tweedledee is democratic, and voting for socialism is not socialism any more than a menu is a meal. If the Labour Party are just another mob of scabs and Tories pretending to be socialists, how then can working people create a better life for themselves and their children? The need for workers' organisations independent of government and bureaucratic union control has never been greater. A rise in wildcat militancy and rank-and-file activism, a rejection of organisational blueprints being imposed from above, can only help us to develop our own demands and alternative forms of social and industrial struggle. We need more local control and independence of action, more direct confrontation between bosses and workers without professional negotiators to sell us out, and more resistance to government interference. Only independent workers' organisations, completely under total membership

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All we want is a Garden of Eden, where none of the fruit is forbidden.

... from front page.

but the Army's task is more difficult since the "enemy" live in houses bewilderingly similar to the ones the squaddies themselves were born and brought up in, in Newcastle, Glasgow or Edinburgh.

What the Army does to you is to break down your loyalty to your own working class background and replace it with loyalty to the British ruling class. You may see nothing wrong in policing the streets of Belfast or Londonderry this year, but what about next year or the year after, when they put you on the streets of London, Liverpool, Birmingham or, yes, even Edinburgh - which way will you point your gun then ?

If you are leaving school and going on the dole the pressure to join the Army might be great, especially if your parents are trying to hustle you out of the house, but to join the Army is the coward's way out, and you will something even worse than a coward the first time you are used as a strike-breaking blackleg. Your job and our job is to fight for a better life here, a life where dole queues and money will be something our kids will read about in the history books.

The majority of deaths during intercourse seem to be associated with infidelity, hence the standard advice to the coronary patient: 'Nothing exciting, just with the wife.' (from the *Sunday Times*)

There is neither left nor right, only large and small.

"Life doesn't give a rat's arse who lives it."

LIBERTARIAN VOICE IS A FREE PAPER. WE HOPE TO FINANCE THE PAPER BY A SERIES OF MUSICAL EVENTS STARTING IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IF RESPONSE TO THE PAPER IS SUFFICIENT, WE ALSO HOPE TO ORGANISE READERS' MEETINGS AS A SPRINGBOARD FOR OTHER ACTIVITIES AND TO INVOLVE MORE PEOPLE IN THE RUNNING OF THE PAPER. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED TO HEAR FROM WOMEN READERS. ARTICLES, LETTERS, IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS WILL BE WELCOMED. CONTACT WITH THE LIBERTARIAN VOICE COLLECTIVE CAN BE MADE THROUGH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES (CORRESPONDENCE ONLY).
Sean Hay, 28/8 Muirhouse Terrace.
John McGowan, 3 Muirhouse Cres.
Ian McNicol, 5/8 Muirhouse Medway.
R. McGilchrist, I6 Salvesen Cres.,
all Edinburgh EH4.

... from centre page.

direction, can become the means for creating a better life for the workers ourselves, and provide a model for a truly socialist, truly democratic society. We invite any local readers interested in these ideas and proposals to get in touch with us, with a view to generating some practical activity in the area. We feel that only this kind of direct working class action can break down the social cohesion of the system that always wins, whoever you vote for. The unemployed cannot go on strike for better wages. Some would argue that claimants should steal from large supermarkets and stores, warehouses, factories, etc., goods up to the value of what they consider to be an acceptable wage, claiming that stealing from the rich to benifit the poor is no crime, the system that allows rich and poor to exist being the real crime.

HOW TO ERASE A GOOD PART OF CAPITALISM...

SHOPLIFT

NO IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS!

By learning the proper techniques you can steal a fair portion of the things you need to live, which amounts to not having to work as much at some type of slave job. Private property is a disease which we can begin to combat by realizing that everything in the world of capitalist businesses is social wealth, and therefore is free.

Of course shoplifting has its drawbacks, if the pigs get you it may land you in jail. But the chief drawback is that shoplifting doesn't go far enough in destroying capitalist social relations. Qualitative looting takes things a step further, but hopefully we will see a day when we can pull off the final theft and destroy capitalism altogether. Then such terms as shoplifting and money will be shelved in pre-history.

S.T.E.M.

Skillfull Theft can Eliminate Money!

T/SOR/43/1/8

Libertarian VOICE

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POPULAR MISCONCEPTION OF A TYPICAL ANARCHIST

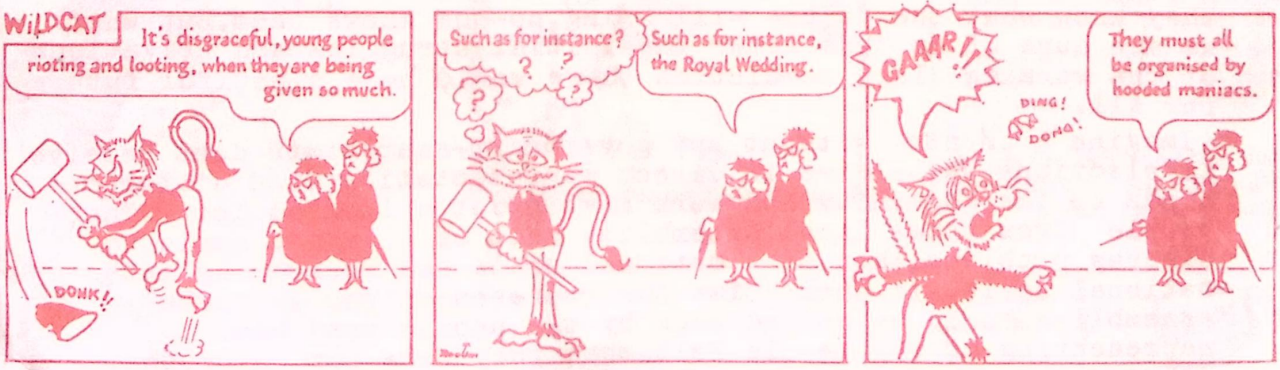
ANARCHISM

AN INTRODUCTION

ACTUAL ANARCHISTS IN REAL LIFE

The anarchist idea has been around for a long time with anarchist writers such as Prince Peter Kropotkin and Alexander Berkman. In Spain during the civil war we set up large autonomous areas. In Russia before 1917 we gained workers control through factory committees. And in Edinburgh the anarchists are today starting to group and organize.

Like the marxists, anarchists beleive that only the working class could bring on the social change called revolution which leads to a free and equal society for EVERYONE. This is simply because the workers and people of little property have so much less to lose than the stinking rich twalys from Barnton or Morninside or Trinity or anywhere else like that. We can afford to try something new. This does not mean that anyone from any class cannot renounce their property and privelages, and join the working class revolution.


WILDCAT
It's disgraceful, young people rioting and looting, when they are being given so much.
DONK!!
Such as for instance?
Such as for instance, the Royal Wedding.
GAAAR!!
DING! DONG!
They must all be organised by hooded maniacs.

The marxist communists beleive that before liberation we must have an all powerfull one-party state which (not surprisingly) will be run by them IN THE NAME OF THE WORKERS!! Big joke. Look at Russia, this system leads to a dictatorship with state capitalism not the "withering away of the state". Give anyone power and they will abuse it, we have been saying that since before the Russian revolution and have been jailed and murdered for saying it.

IF VOTING COULD CHANGE ANY THING IT WOULD BE MADE ILLEGAL

The anarchist revolution is for the working class and so every member of the working class community should be able to participate in it.We aim towards controling our own lives through seizing control of the factories and the means of production and distribution.But what you ask happens to me,my family,my wages when this "revolution" happens? When the workers seize control it will be in a massive national general strike where capitalism,the state and the forces of repression(police,army...) would be either out on strike in support of the working class revolution or collapsing because of it.The government would be powerless.Free areas would be set up with warehouses where everything people needed in the community would be.These warehouses would receive everything from the factories and industries run by the workers of the factories,through factory committees.

Money would have no purpose in an anarchist society where everything was free.People will not steal if they have all they want.It is a system of give and take.If everyone put in their few hours working on the land or in the factory or in any other way they were skilled,like plumbing,carpentry,bricklaying,teaching or nursing or in anything,then they could take all wanted.

Man/Woman is a social being,why dont families live together in communes,ofcourse we laugh at communes as being hippy or weird but thats only because of the attitudes we have grown up withand our limited experiance.For example when was the last time you heard of Edinburgh housing department renting out a commune or large house for families to share.If wexare social beings then we should bring out this part of human nature for the good.Ofcourse everyone likes their privacy, thats why we invented doors!

Capitalism reduces us to every man/woman against his fellow,it is an anti-social system which brings out the worst in human nature-jealousy,hatred,malice,corruption and the reaching of a goal(more money) at any price.

We can not say for certain what an anarchist future will bring, what communities and free areas will decide to do is up to them as workers to decide-infact thats the nice thing about anarchism, it does not to pretend to know what will happen down to every last detail in a new society,it simply has guide lines to work around and these guide lines adapt with different countries, situations,times,people,etc etc.Dont let anyone tell you that they know what the future will bring,no-one knows that.But what we are sure of is that after the initial struggles and privations of the working class revolution there would be a plentiful future for all.

Imagine a country without any government-anarchists dont beleive in elections,we beleive in direct representation from different areas of the community and work meeting at a local a level.Then people from these local assemblies meet on a larger sdale to discuss problems,then on a national scale and then on an international scale.All then time the representatives at these assemblies could be called back by the people they were representing if the people felt that they were not doing their job properly.Imagine a country without any tax,banks,bureaucracy, insurance companies,corporations,millionaires,land owners, polititions or any of the other leeches we support who produce nothing.We can produce all we want in goods with only a fraction of the working hours.

Anarchism means technology for the people.Excellance and study in all feilds of work and life.Exchange and travel throughout the free areas of the world.Work towards anarchism,work towards a peacful,equal and free society.

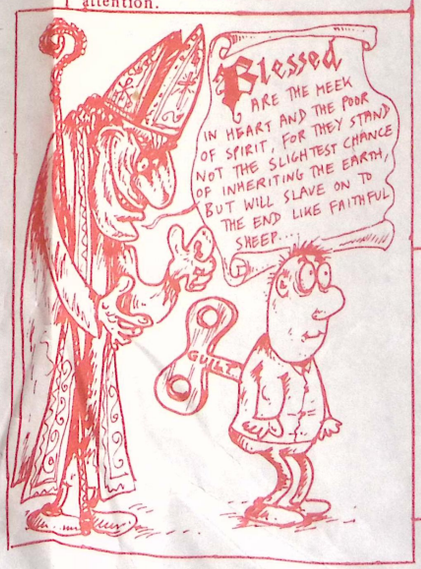
This article ofcourse could only serve as a small introduction to anarchism and even at that did not cover as much as would liked to have been covered.If anyone is interested after this article you could write to us and we would send you details of the anarchist group in Edinburgh and of the anarchist conference which will be happening in Edinburgh within the next few weeks.Or if you just want to read more I could reccommend the following "About Anarchism"by Nicolas Walter(pamphlet),or even better "ABC of Anarchism"by Alexander Berkman(book-£1),the pamphlet is 50p,both are avaliable from

FREEDOM BOOKSHOP

Angel Alley, 84b Whitechapel High St, London E1.

TEACHERS! Do you get that 'Oh shit. not another morning feeling'? Does the prospect of standing in front of a sullen malevolent class make you want to retch?
What you need is new, improved
CLASSROOM CONTROL
and it's free!
Yes free! With every teaching jobat Woodway Park School, Coventry comes a free copy of CLASSROOM CONTROL, two pages of handy hints to keep your pupils placid, your students stupified, your kids catatonic. Sadly we only have room here for a brief selection of this truly wonderful advice.

* Tell children when they may enter. Show that you are in charge from the moment they enter the room.
* They must have something to do- a worksheet, something on the board to read, a book to read from the moment they come in.
* See that pupils do not talk to you without first raising their hand- a convention which pupils readily accept. If this is not kept to, one or two pupils can monopolise the teacher's attention.
* Have a seating plan- a boy-girl-boy-girl alphabetical arrangement is sufficient to separate any disruptive cliques and will help you memorise their names.
* A grubby, poorly-dressed child is more likely to be disruptive than a neatly-dressed child, so don't worry if you find that you punish the grubby child far more than the clean child.
* Know and use the system of rewards and punishments provided by the school. It is often tempting to 'let pupils off' punishment. Don't, and don't be taken in by excuses, however convincing.



BRITISH ARMY ILLEGAL!

According to the latest 'State Research', the British Army has been illegal since the 31st. April 1955. State Research have not found any legal measures to legitimise the Army or the Air Force since that date.

Apparently in the bill of rights 1866 it was set out that an Army Act be passed each year to legitimise the Army and to safeguard parliament against overthrow/liquidation by the monarch.

So back in good old '55 parliament obviously thought the Monarch wasn't a threat and no longer continued to pass the Army Act. But at the same time no longer legitimised it's existence.

Unfortunately it will take quite a while before the implications are known, since some acts are passed which refer to/or finance the military.

But certain areas are still unclear, in the North for example it would seem that the Secetary of State for Defence can be prosecuted for any damage or injury carried out by the military in the past 26 years.

Conscientious objectors would be able to take legal action against rules designed to keep them in a force which oughtn't legally to exist.

If State Research claims turn out to be true, retrospective legislation will be the order of the day – an embarassing day at least.

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School Records:

The Libertarian Voice Collective have recently had brought to their attention a pretty frightening fact about school records which we feel the kids of Craigroyston should know about.

Alot of which you feel is harmless chat to teachers and the like is infact incriminating evidence used against you in your future life.Anything you say or do which they feel is out of the ordinary no matter how insignificant is usually emidiatly noted down.

Social Education is where this most happens,the place where you feel most relaxed,the place where they encourage you more to talk about yourself,you future,your attitudes and feelings.But stop, you are only playing into their hands-talking freely to teachers in relaxed surroundings does not automaticly mean that these teachers stop becoming teachers.They will always be wanting to know what kind of a person you are,whether you are the type that would smash windows or steal or skive or grass on his fellow mates.

Really bizarre things are put on school files,we have been shown records with really scary things written on them if they fell into the wrong hands.And on top of that they are just full of a lot of crap anyway.....

A truant officer writes"suspect the mother of possible gonorrhoea(VD)"and generaly mentions the standard of the house, cleansiness,tidiness,smell! The standard of the kids,how the children behave and all the other prying nitty little things they're paid to find out.

A teacher writes "has a habit of pretending to be interested" "he probably did steal the purse"

In both cases no evidence is given just opinion.How can these individuals be given the power which could possibly affect the future life of the child if people like the police or future employers or the DHSS got their hands on these bits of paper.

Why do we need school records? most childrens attitudes and behavior change when they leave school anyway.Why are they writting these things about us?and even more important,Who are they writting these things about us for?

All were trying to say basicly is that as a pupil you are in a dodgy position,anything you say will be taken down and used as evidence against you in your future life-its true,weve seen the proof,maybe you think were over-reacting but its better to be safe than sorry.90% of teachers are out to get you if they dont like you.Dont say anything to them you dont have to.

Just as a last note,most of the stuff written on the report records infact nearly all of it was bad points about the pupils,it was quite rare to see anything nice written about the children.

The Lib Voice collective are a small group of workers from Muirhouse.We are not a bunch of polititians,we feel that throughout history the working class has been used and made a fool of by polititians and leaders.We want to change that. We think the working class should run their own lives by running their factories,their own schools,their own transport, their own hospitals,etc,etc.If you beleive in what were saying, write to us or get in contact.Were tired talking, we want to DO something.Lib Voice can be contacted through..... John McGowan jnr,3 Muirhouse Cresent...Ian McNicol,5/8 Muirhouse Medway...